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Disability Commission Minutes 08/16/2006

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2006

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Kerrie Fallon, Barbara Jones,
Kevin O'Brien

Members Absent: Lin Baker, Susan James, Louis Krodel

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2006:

The July 19, 2006 meeting minutes were tabled until the September 20, 2006 meeting.

Town Day 2006:

Jack said that Town Day 2006 would be held on September 9th with a rain date of September 16th. Jack said that the Commission would distribute as a promotional item 1,000 magnifying glasses and 500 jar openers in addition to this years edition of the Commission's Access Newsletter that Barbara C. said she would prepare.

Tom Boudreau Memorial Gift Fund:

Jack said that the stairway between the Dallin Playfield and the Dallin School has been removed. In place of the stairway the Town will be constructing a ramp, which will contain a platform for the placement of a bench in memory of Tom. Kevin said that the Town Manager has requested that the Commission pay for the bench directly instead of reimbursing the Town. Jack said that the bench recommended by the Permanent Town Building Committee would be similar in design to a bench that exists in front of the Dallin School. Barbara C. said that a placid with wording remembering Tom should be attached to the bench.

Community Update:

Kevin said that he was not aware of any curb ramp work having been completed in the Town since the Town Engineer retired last June. Jack said that he would meet with Joey Glushko of the Planning Dept. to develop a priority list for curb ramp work along Broadway and Warren St. Commission members discussed the ADAAG guidelines that now require curb ramps to contain a tactical warning along the ramp. Curb ramps installed in the past within the Town have not contained truncated domes to warn visually impaired pedestrians that they are entering the street from the sidewalk. Barbara J. said

that Public Works should be notified of this issue and that all future curb ramps must contain the required tactical warning. Jack said that he was informed that the State Highway Department had released information to local Engineering Departments pertaining to required curb ramp guidance, but will still talk to the Director of Public Works regarding this issue. Barbara C. said that instead of moving back and retrofitting non-compliant curb ramps the Town should move forward and make sure that future curb ramps are in full compliance with ADAAG regulations. Barbara J. said that a crosswalk has been recently installed in the vicinity of the Arlington Heights Assisted Living building that does not have a curb ramp at one side of the crosswalk. Jack said that he would follow up on this issue.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that the State Legislature over rode the Governor's veto of legislation that would have reduced funding for special education recipients that were turning twenty-two years of age.

Barbara C. said that the State has approved three million dollars to assist individuals with autism. Barbara C. also said that upgrading salaries for direct care workers has been approved by the State. Barbara C. said that legislation that would deny the use of pain to control behavior did not make it out of Committee.

Other Business:

Kerrie F. said that she has found signage at the Town Hall to be confusing. Kevin recommended that this concern be addressed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.